

MINUTES

The Mayor and Council met in regular session on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room in City Hall.

PRESENT

Kimberly B. Lawson, Mayor
Charlotte Scott, Council Vice President
LaVerne Johnson, Councilwoman
Mike Atkins, Councilman
Erik Emely, Councilman
Mark Konapelsky, Councilman
Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer
Michael Sullivan, City Solicitor

Also in attendance; Valerie Swift, Secretary; John Dize; Kerry Palakanis;
John Gaddis; Terri & Bruce Chelton; Derryk Waltermann; Phil Riggin; Ken Wilmer;
Irving Saltz; Tom Gizale; Bill Landon; Joan Elsroad; Elwood Rybyzynski; Chris
Boyer; James Charles; Dan Kuebler; Danny Thompson; Mark Mentzer; John P.
Tawes; Anthony Jackson ; Terry Pehan; Richard Crumbacker; Debbie Gates.

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order, opening with the Lord's
Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Lawson also announced that
following this meeting, there would be a closed session concerning litigation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing of July 9, 2014 and the regular meeting of July 9, 2014.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Mayor Lawson made reference to his meeting this morning with employees from Public Utilities, Works and the Clerk's office, concerning positive activities.

At this time, he presented Certificates of Appreciation to the American Legion and Christine Boyer, for their presentation of "Freedom Fest".

APPOINTMENTS – JOHN GADDIS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. Gaddis appeared before the Mayor and City Council with an update on school system activities and plans. He also recognized Mr. Dan Kuebler, Board Member, in the audience.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Lawson made reference to an item of unfinished business which would be addressed during a Closed Session.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Vice President Scott presented to the Mayor and Council her plans for forming a Beautification Advisory Board for Crisfield. She noted that

tourism is the best plan for Crisfield and with crabs and the crabbing industry, and the theme should be “Crab Capital of the World”. She advised that she would like the committee to be formed of five to seven people with skills in design and beautification.

She advised that this would be the first step and would cost nothing. She advised that she would lead the committee which would present their plans to the Mayor and Council for review.

At this time, Councilman Konapelsky made a motion to approve formation of the Beautification Committee, with Council Vice President Scott as chairperson. Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

Councilman Atkins commented that this was a great idea.

Ms. Chris Boyer also suggested that the Committee also come to a Long Term Recovery Task Force meeting.

Mayor Lawson made reference to appointment of members. Mr. Sullivan advised that this would be a new board. Mayor Lawson inquired if all members would be appointed by Council Vice President Scott, and she

advised that they would.

Mayor Lawson briefed on meeting procedures and Public Input.

Mayor Lawson made reference to a discussion about a consultant for upcoming changes in cable service.

Mr. Sullivan advised that Comcast is purchasing Charter, and a consultant would be needed to make sure they provide certain types of service. He made reference to sharing with the County on the cost. He also advised that this is no cheap endeavor and that the City is not obligated.

Mayor Lawson advised that he met with County Administrator, Doug Taylor, who feels that they need a consultant and wants to know if the City would like to participate.

Councilwoman Johnson advised that the City needs to explore what the Consultant can do.

Council Vice President Scott inquired about the franchise expiration.

Mayor Lawson advised that it expires 120 days from June 17th.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson made a motion that Mayor Lawson, along with Mr. Sullivan and Doug Taylor explore the use of a Consultant concern-

ing Comcast. Motion seconded by Councilman Atkins and carried unanimously.

Mayor Lawson presented an Event Application request from Living Hope Ministries for an event at the Depot on Friday, August 29th from 7 to 9 p.m.

Mayor Lawson made reference to considering fees for electricity, garbage, etc., for Depot events.

Councilman Emely made a motion to approve the request from Living Hope Ministries. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT, Q & A

Mr. Phil Riggin, Economic Development Long Term Recovery chairman, requested a letter of support from the City concerning the proposed Bike Path. He advised that the letter should be sent to State Highway- MD. Secretary of Transportation, County Commissioners, Parks & Rec., Senator Mathias and Delegates Conway and Otto.

Councilman Atkins commented that he would like to see the bike path extend as far as the depot.

Mr. Riggin also requested a letter of support to the County Commissioners requesting that they ask DHCD for re-allocation of left over funds from Hurricane Sandy Round 1 money for Economic Development in Crisfield.

After a brief discussion, Councilman Emely made a motion to approve a letter to the County Commissioners requesting that DHCD reprogram funds left over from the \$8.6 M of Sandy Round one money, for Economic Development for the City of Crisfield.

During discussion, Councilman Atkins advised that he is in favor of this.

Councilman Konapelsky advised that this money is still being used for what it was designated for and there would be a 2 to 3 year wait to re-allocate. He stated the he doesn't feel there is any point in requesting it at this time.

Mr. Danny Thompson, Director, EDC, noted that 1.2M was used for assisting 41 watermen, 2 facades, 3 business loans, 7 more watermen, 7 loan inquiries, and 2 – 3 loan applications. He also advised that he feels the funds will be used.

Mr. Riggin stated that he feels there will be funds left over, and that a letter of intent needs to get on record.

At this time, Councilwoman Johnson seconded Councilman Emely's motion.

Motion carried with abstention from Councilman Konapelsky, due to his position at the County.

Mr. Terry Pehan, Crisfield Arts Coalition, made reference to beautification, and advised that Carolyn Marquis has been working on “Arts under the Stars” putting artwork in storefronts, and suggested that Council Vice President Scott check with her.

Mayor Lawson noted that the Planning Commission has not laid out the guidelines of the Arts District yet.

Councilman Emely made reference to the Fire Marshall going into buildings downtown, many of which were in violation. He commented that these need to be cleaned up first, before being decorated. Councilman Konapelsky advised that the buildings that were done have existing owners.

Mr. Dan Kuebler made reference to a consultant for the cable service and advised that one is needed to get proper documentation, money, etc. He stated that the City should get on board with getting the consultant.

Mr. John Tawes advised that he had spoken with a Comcast Rep

concerning the changes that would have to be made and advised that the City needs to see what Comcast's plans are.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Atkins had nothing to report.

Councilman Konapelsky made reference to the upcoming National Night out Event on August 5th at the Somers Cove Marina. He requested that the City make a donation on behalf of the City of Crisfield. Mayor Lawson suggested that the City make a \$250.00 donation. Approval so moved by Councilman Atkins, seconded by Councilwoman Johnson and carried unanimously.

Council Vice President Scott advised she had nothing to report.

Councilman Emely made reference to bidding on City jobs. Mayor Lawson advised that on major jobs, the City solicits for bids; the City can spend up to \$4,000 without Council approval. Councilman Emely suggested spreading out even small jobs.

Councilwoman Johnson advised she had nothing to report.

Mayor Lawson read a letter from Chief Tabor concerning recent graffiti on private property. He advised that he would like permission from property

owners before the City paints over it, and only white paint would be used.

Mayor Lawson also noted that Cpl. Andy Crockett had resigned from CPD and Lawrence Daisey had been promoted to Cpl.

Mayor Lawson also noted that the Waterway Improvement Grant was due on August 5th, to be used for Lori Quinn boardwalk repairs, a Kayak launching facility, 7 life rings, and a walking pavement around the new depot.

Mayor Lawson also advised that in his office were many plans, maps, and charts that the Council was welcome to review.

There being no further business for discussion in the regular session, Councilman Atkins made a motion to adjourn to go into a closed session.

Motion seconded by Councilman Emely and carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce L. Morgan, Clerk-Treasurer

Prepared by Valerie Swift, Secretary

